

AMATEUR CITIES

RESEARCH AND PUBLISHING PLATFORM

Amateur Cities is a research agency and an online publishing platform on alternative ways of city making presented critically. It aims to connect city thinkers to city makers.

Amateur Cities publishes articles that collect, analyze and clarify contemporary urban and technological development interesting for learning cities anew – not as masters, but as amateurs. It provides a platform for a dialogue on urban collective intelligence by presenting side-by-side theoretical and practical voices. It stimulates cross-sector exchange by engaging experts from architecture, urbanism, art, science, economy, information technology, media, sociology and philosophy.

The main goal of Amateur Cities is to provide insight and interdisciplinary expertise in an accessible language. It is in order to allow expertise to be understood, help innovative practitioners to make their voices heard, make abstract thoughts visually stimulating and create connections between expertise, practice and local communities.

Amateur Cities disseminates the available knowledge and new research findings on contemporary urban development mostly through a combination of digital and printed media. The platform strives to develop further through more extensive engagement in organization of debates and public events to act as a catalyst for different forms of knowledge exchange online and offline.

In October 2014 Amateur Cities has

organized a successful and well-attended debate at Post—Office in Rotterdam titled “Stay Amateur” that involved a range of experts from architecture and urbanism professionals to historians and media experts on polarization between experts and amateurs. Both editors appear regularly as speakers at conferences and public lectures. They have presented their work at the 2nd International Digital Storytelling conference in Athens, the 100% City conference in Riga, the 3rd New Generations Festival in Genoa and they have occasionally delivered guest lectures at the TU Delft and the University of Amsterdam.

The platform has been set up and is developed by Cristina Ampatzidou and Ania Molenda, both researchers based in Rotterdam and has been supported by the Creative Industries Fund NL.

CONTACT

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CV

Amateur Cities has been founded by Cristina Ampatzidou and Ania Molenda in 2013. It is a research and publishing platform on alternative ways of city making presented critically.

Jan 2013

Established collaboration between Cristina Ampatzidou and Ania Molenda as Amateur Cities

Feb 2014

Received funding from Creative Industries Fund NL

May 2015

Presentation by C.Ampatzidou at Digital Storytelling Conference in Athens

Oct 2014

Amateur Cities became active as an online publishing platform
Organization of 'Stay Amateur' debate at Post—Office in Rotterdam

Dec 2014

Participation by invitation in 100% City Conference in Riga

Jan 2015

Public lecture at TU Delft Faculty of Architecture by invitation of ARGUS student association

May 2014

Lecture by C. Ampatzidou at the University of Amsterdam
Presentation by C. Ampatzidou at Conversas Rotterdam

Jun 2015

Publication in Footprint #16 Academic Journal of TU Delft

Nov 2015

Participation by invitation in 3rd New Generations Festival in Genoa

BIOGRAPHIES OF FOUNDING PARTNERS

Ania Molenda (b. 1983 Wroclaw, Poland) is an independent Rotterdam-based researcher and curator. She is a founder and editor-in-chief of Amateur Cities, an editor of On Site review and a member of Rotterdam's Culture Council 2017-2020. She gained her Master's degree in Architecture from TU Delft and TU Wroclaw in 2009. Since then her work has spanned academia, research, design and curatorial practice. Before starting an independent career she has worked as a researcher and teacher at TU Delft Faculty of Architecture as well as designer and researcher at MVRDV, Powerhouse Company and SVESMI. She has contributed to presentations at Moscow Architecture Biennale 2010, 13th Venice Architecture Biennale 2012, Hong Kong Business of Design Week 2012, Salone del Mobile 2013 and 14th Venice Architecture Biennale 2014. In her work Ania Molenda focuses on the socio-cultural dimension of spatial practices and the potential of innovation in contemporary urban environments.

Cristina Ampatzidou (b. 1983 Thessaloniki, Greece) is a Rotterdam-based researcher and writer with a background in Architecture and Urbanism, and founder and editor in-chief of Amateur Cities. Currently pursuing her PhD at the University of Groningen on the topic of gaming and urban complexity, she previously worked as an embedded researcher for the Amsterdam Hackable Metropolis project, a collaboration of the University of Amsterdam, the Mobile City Foundation and One Architecture. Cristina has been a collaborator of Play the City! Foundation and the Architecture Film Festival of Rotterdam. Her research investigates the affordances of new media for 'citymaking' and the changing roles of professional designers, policy makers and citizens. Cristina has been a guest teacher at the TU Delft Faculty of Architecture and is a regular contributor to several architecture and urbanism magazines.